



SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)

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Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Division of Social and Economic Sciences**



Revised Program (2014)

Submission Deadline November 10, 2014

Last Monday in October, Annually Thereafter

The SPRF program has two separate tracks:

- (i) Broadening Participation, SPRF-BP
 - Previously called the SBE Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MPRF)
- (ii) Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences, SPRF-IBSS ****New since 2012****

****Applicants should choose one of the two tracks****



Eligibility

The fellowship applicant must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident by the submission deadline date
- Doctoral degree obtained within 36 months before or within 10 months after the submission deadline

****Applicants with full-time tenure-track faculty positions not eligible****



Broadening Participation Track (BP)

The SPRF-BP track offers fellowships in an effort to increase the diversity of researchers who participate in NSF programs in the social, behavioral and economic (SBE) sciences and thereby increase the participation of scientists from under-represented groups in selected areas of science in the United States.

NSF defines broadening participation in terms of individuals from under-represented groups as well as institutions and geographic areas that do not participate in NSF research programs at rates comparable to others.



Broadening Participation Track (BP)

The broadening participation issue can be addressed directly (in case the research itself is on that topic), indirectly (through the broader impacts of the research, or by incorporating appropriate training and outreach activities), or both.

In addition to the scientific research, all proposals for this (BP) track must include a specific section with the heading "**How this fellowship will help broaden the participation of scientists from currently under-represented groups in the United States**".



Broadening Participation Track (BP)

NSF August 2008 Report:

“Broadening Participation at the National Science Foundation: A Framework for Action”

http://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/nsf_frameworkforaction_0808.pdf

The report specifically states that:

Researchers and educators seeking NSF funding may propose nondiscriminatory, nonexclusive strategies to broaden the participation of individuals who belong to underrepresented groups, e.g., Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and Persons with Disabilities.

It should be noted that, among the many fields of STEM, identification of a particular group as underrepresented may vary by discipline (e.g. women are underrepresented in some fields).



Interdisciplinary Track - IBSS

Definition of Interdisciplinary Research:

"Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

National Academies' Report "Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, 2004" and NSF's Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research -

http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/additional_resources/interdisciplinary_research/definition.jsp



Interdisciplinary Track - IBSS

The SPRF-IBSS track aims to support interdisciplinary training where at least one of the disciplinary components is an SBE science.

The proposal must be motivated by a compelling research question (within the fields of social, behavioral and economic sciences) that requires an interdisciplinary approach for successful investigation. As a result, Fellowship Candidates should demonstrate the need for new or additional skills and expertise beyond his or her core doctoral experience to achieve advances in the proposed research.



Interdisciplinary Track - IBSS

Proposals in the IBSS track will be evaluated on three general dimensions of interdisciplinarity:

- the interdisciplinarity of the Fellow-Mentor team;
- the research approach used
- the expected intellectual significance of the research results

In addition to the scientific research, all proposals for this track (SPRF-IBSS) must include a specific section with the heading "**Why this project requires interdisciplinary training beyond my core doctoral expertise and experiences**".



Interdisciplinary Track - IBSS

Additional clarification for Interdisciplinary Research:

“The Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) encourages investigators to submit proposals that go beyond the boundaries of traditional disciplines, span across the existing core SBE programs, or extend outside the SBE sciences.”

SBE Dear Colleague Letter: For Interdisciplinary Research Across the SBE Sciences:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12123/nsf12123.jsp>



Budget

- \$62,000 total for annual salary (including fringe benefits)
- \$10,000/year research & travel expenses
 - Travel expenses for the Fellow; but may include no more than one trip for the Mentor(s), if justified and necessary for the project.
- Indirect costs at the institutional negotiated rate, considering this award as a "Fellowship".
- Additional travel expenses of up to \$10,000 may be requested if the Fellowship project includes an international component. For additional information see <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/iprffapp.jsp>.



Who Should Be PI on the Proposal?

The Fellowship Candidate should be the PI and the Sponsoring Scientist (Mentor), the co-PI on the Cover Sheet of the proposal; if the institution does not allow the Fellowship Candidate to be PI, then the Sponsoring Scientist (Mentor) should be named the PI, and the Fellowship Candidate, co-PI. If the institution's internal rules prohibit the Fellowship Candidate to be named as PI or co-PI, then the Fellowship Candidate can be named "Senior Personnel". Other co-mentors, if involved in the project, may be named as additional co-PIs.



Question on International Work

Can a Fellow choose a foreign institution (and a mentor at that site) for his/her postdoctoral work?

Yes, but you must select a US institution to submit your proposal from, and your Lead Mentor (Sponsoring Scientist) must be from that US institution. Your work at the foreign institution can involve a co-Mentor from that institution.



Useful Data Resources

They include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The NSF Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES):
<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/>
- (2) The U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>
- (3) The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html> and Bureau of Economic Analysis: <http://www.bea.gov/>
- (4) NSF's Budget Internet Information System:
<http://dellweb.bfa.nsf.gov/starth.asp>
- (5) The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights Lists of Minority Post-Secondary Institutions
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>
- (6) Science and engineering professional society reports and statistics



Read the SPRF Solicitation!

You can find it on this page ...

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504810

read this page and follow the link (Solicitation [14-595](#)) from there.

After reading the solicitation carefully, if you need clarification on some aspect(s) please feel free to contact:

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